

Modernization celebration highlights HEUMF activities

Despite cold and windy conditions, more than 100 invited guests attended the site dedication for the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility held March 27.

As community leaders, employees, Congressman Zach Wamp and Brigadier General Ronald Haeckel looked on, a crane slowly lowered a tiny, rust-covered guard shack from atop its 40-foot tower. The tower is being removed to make room for the upcoming construction of the facility.

Congressman Wamp called the facility the “cornerstone in the building of Y-12’s future,” and said that DOE’s decision to build the facility at the Complex guarantees that the mission of safe, long-term storage of highly enriched material will always be at Y-12.

Bill Brumley, manager of the Y-12 area office of the National Nuclear Security Administration, said that after more than two years of planning, “Y-12 is ready to take the first actions

to modernize this facility.” He also said the upcoming work for the HEUMF and the Special Materials Complex marks the activation of a 20-year plan to provide the Complex with new facilities, equipment and processes to continue upholding its missions.

Modernization leader Cindy Hayes likened the activities at NNSA’s longest continuous-running manufacturing center to “getting a second wind.”

Wamp commented that the new facilities also will mean jobs for East Tennessee. Besides initial construction work, the need for architects, engineers and project managers also will increase.



Brigadier General Ron Haeckel, left, a senior official at NNSA in Washington, D.C., and Ron Kroon, the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility design lead, unveil the sign denoting the future home of the facility at the March 27 ceremony. See page 3 for more photos of the festivities.

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Starting up to shut it down—9206 restarts processes to deactivate

A major chemical processing facility at the Y-12 National Security Complex has been restarted in an effort to remove uranium in process equipment — the first step toward eventual deactivation and demolition of the building.

The National Nuclear Security Administration approved the startup of Building 9206 following successful completion of an operational readiness review by

NNSA officials. This startup marks the restart of the final major nuclear facility at Y-12 that was idled in the 1994 safety stand-down.

During deactivation, all processing and handling equipment inside Building 9206 will be purged of remaining uranium compounds. The first step is to remove the uranium, which is combustible or pyrophoric in air. It will be

recovered, stabilized in an inert atmosphere and removed. The material will be handled in glove boxes and cast into small metal discs for safe storage at Y-12. When this step is completed, uranium from other process equipment will be removed, and the facility will be shut down permanently and deactivated. At this point there is no schedule for demolition once deactivation has been completed.

A significant quantity of uranium present in Building 9206 was removed before restart of operations. That material has been placed in protective storage vaults at Y-12. Chemical processing activities previously performed in Building 9206 are handled through other operations in Y-12. Building 9206 was built in 1946.



Andy Moore of Manufacturing uses a glove box to prepare material as part of the deactivation process in Building 9206.

First Modernization project receives Critical Decision 1

With the National Nuclear Security Administration's approval of a Critical Decision 1 (CD-1) package March 11, BWXT Y-12 has the green light to start design on its first capital line-item project at Y-12 since 1997. The Purification Facility (PPtF) is also the first Y-12 project to be under the new

DOE Preliminary Engineering and Design process effective in October 2000.

This Modernization project has "turned our whole world at Y-12 upside down. It has redefined how we do project execution and given us a better focus on how to build for ourselves a more flexible manufacturing capability," says Cindy Hayes, Director of Modernization.

The PPtF "provides manufacturing capability and

capacity for a special material we used to have and was discontinued in FY 1989. This material has been identified as needed to support future missions," according to Mark Sollenberger, the project manager. Hayes adds that "the material produced by this project is considered 'special' because no one else other than Y-12 makes it."

As part of the Y-12 Modernization Program, the PPtF project is being driven by a manufacturing need defined in the Stockpile Life Extension Program mission. "We are building a new

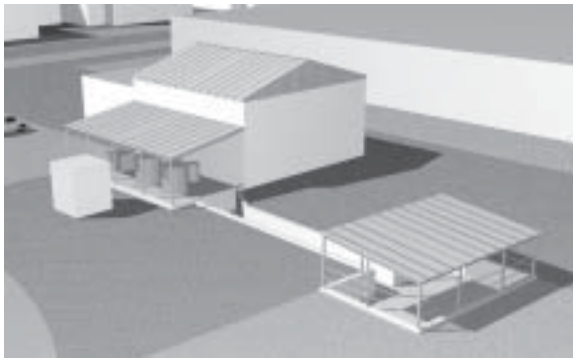
facility that replicates a historic manufacturing process but includes more controls and better Environmental, Safety and Health conditions," Sollenberger said. The old facility that last housed this process has been closed for more than 12 years, the equipment is no longer viable or functional, and the ES&H conditions preclude restarting the process in that facility.

"This authorization reflects a success which is solely attributable to the efforts of one of the finest project teams that I have had the pleasure of working with in my 25 years here in Oak Ridge," Sollenberger said.

This recent "green light" from NNSA will allow us to start the preliminary, or Title I, design. "Preliminary design will provide such basic information as facility layouts, structural analyses and design input, process equipment and controls definition, utilities needs—all integrated with confirmation of health and safety considerations. These preliminary data will permit us to acquire higher confidence level cost estimates and schedules for the balance of the project," said Sollenberger.

The next step for the PPtF is to complete and provide to NNSA the results of these preliminary design efforts in support of the authorization for Title II design. "This next design phase will encompass detailed design sufficient to secure construction services and major equipment fabrication and procurements. The completed Title II design should be of sufficient detail to hand to a contractor or fabricator for them to work from," Sollenberger said.

According to the most recent PPtF project schedule, this new manufacturing facility and its processes are targeted for operational test and checkout in 2004.



Artist's conceptual rendering of the Purification Facility.

Y-12 plays host to Safety Summit

Y-12 recently hosted the BWXT Corporate Safety Summit, an annual meeting chaired by Allen Womack, president of BWX Technologies. Attendees included the presidents and Environmental, Safety and Health directors from each of the BWXT companies and companies with whom Y-12 has a major partnership. The locations of the summits are a mixture of NNSA, DOE and non-DOE sites. Some 25 people attended this year's summit.

The summit's focus is improving safety among our workforces, and it featured presentations from each site and an open discussion period on specific topics. One of the main topics covered this year was behavior-based safety and how it could be applied. Another topic presented and discussed was the Y-12 Automated Job Hazard Analysis, which currently is under development.

The summit also gives everyone the opportunity to share lessons learned. By learning what everyone else is doing to eliminate injuries, we learn what works and what doesn't work so well, which helps us avoid unnecessary costs and possible delays in improving our safety performance. Bill Brumley, manager of NNSA's Oak Ridge office, spoke to the group and presented his perspective of safety in NNSA and at the Y-12 Complex.



Bob Hawthorne of Infrastructure Reduction gives the Safety Summit crew a tour and overview of Y-12.



The removal of the guard tower makes way for the HEUMF.

Celebration

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BWXT Y-12 President and General Manager John Mitchell recognized the commitment and hard work of those involved in the planning of the new facility, and he also recognized all the employees who currently work in the HEU storage facilities at Y-12.

General Haeckel, who had been touring the Complex two days prior to the event, helped Ron Kroon, the facility design lead, unveil the sign denoting the future home of the HEUMF. Haeckel is the principal assistant deputy administrator for military application at NNSA in Washington, D.C.

More than 3,500 day- and evening-shift employees celebrated the day by enjoying a free lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, cake and ice cream.



What celebration would be complete without cake? Carolyn Thompson and Stacey Landers of Project Management were two of the hostesses who served more than 10 cakes to employees.



Music from the Parrott Brothers entertained the line of patrons waiting to be served at the Y-12 Cafeteria. The band includes Jeff Parrott of Manufacturing, left, his brother Paul and drummer Scott Billingsly.



Chef Joyce Dye, above left, and Chris Taylor of Maintenance cook for more than 3,500 people. Sharon Goins of Maintenance, left, gets some help from the "big chef" Deputy Manager Buddy Conner.

Retirees get congrats from NNSA's Gordon

Y-12 retirees Jim Thompson and Doyle Turner received congratulatory letters from General John Gordon, head of the National Nuclear Security Administration, upon their recent retirements. In his letters, Gordon thanked Turner for his accomplishments in software engineering and other projects and Thompson for his accomplishments in metal-working processes at Y-12 and other DOE sites.

Brigadier General Ron Haeckel, a senior official at NNSA headquarters, also presented the two with commemorative NNSA medallions. Both retired March 31; Thompson had 41 years of service and Turner had 37 years of service.

In the photo from left, NNSA-Oak Ridge Manager Bill Brumley, General Haeckel, Thompson, and Turner are joined by Dave Beck, assistant deputy administrator for military applications and stockpile operations, and John Mitchell, president and general manager of BWXT Y-12.



Improving crime-fighting tools is specialty of Y-12 chemists

It's one of the worst things that could happen to parents—to hear that their child has disappeared. A factor adding to investigators' frustration is that it is extremely difficult to trace the child by his or her fingerprints because they do not last. Essentially, a child can vanish with minimal traces. To combat this problem, a team of Y-12 chemists is working to devise fingerprinting and fiber recognition technology that will give crime-scene investigators ways to use literally every shred of evidence they can gather.



From left, Smithwick, DeVault and Lewis

The research being conducted by Linda Lewis, Bob Smithwick and Gerald DeVault, all of the Analytical Chemistry organization, is focused in two areas. The first area is the development of techniques for gathering clearer, more distinguished fingerprints. The second area is developing a fiber analysis technique that separates and measures dye components from just one to two millimeters of a single nylon fiber.

Building on the studies of ORNL researcher Michelle Buchanan and Knoxville Police investigator Art Bohanon, the chemists are developing a technique that will enhance the detection of fingerprints, such as a child's. But first, they had to fully understand the phenomenon of disappearing fingerprints and the current methods used to gather prints.

Before the ages of seven to 10 years, children do not secrete sebum, an oily substance that comes from the face, neck and hair. While most of us would recognize sebum as the cause of pimple problems, it also is the reason adults' fingerprints stay in

place longer than a child's. Children's fingerprints (and adults with freshly washed hands) only contain eccrine sweat, which evaporates, therefore making the life span of such a print short. These types of fingerprints are referred to as "clean" prints.

The use of cyanocrylate esters (super glue) has been an important method for revealing certain fingerprints since the '80s, but it has two drawbacks—it is subject to environmental and other factors making it sometimes inconsistent and unpredictable to use, and super glue fumes cause fingerprints to appear white, necessitating a second step to color the print to show up on light-colored backgrounds. The three researchers set out to understand the basic chemistry of the super glue process so they could improve it.

Because children's fingerprints are not something you can order from a lab supply catalog, the team had to find a group of children with willing parents from whom they could collect samples. Smithwick turned to his wife Katherine, who directs the Farragut Presbyterian Children's Enrichment Program.

"We first thought there was no way these parents were going to let us fingerprint their children," he said. "But when we told them what it was for, they were really cooperative."

The team's research now is funded by the National Institute of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and several state agencies. The FBI recently purchased a piece of equipment (a capillary electrophoresis instrument) to replace the homemade one the team was using to conduct their fiber research.

Support work has come from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, researchers, and a collaborative effort with University of West Virginia researchers is possible. The team is hoping to be chosen to do research for a UT-sponsored crime-scene investigation lab, which is a project headed up by Y-12's Mike Sullivan of Complementary Work.

If you'd like more information on the team's research, contact Lewis at 576-9382.

Women's History Month celebrated

In recognition of Women's History Month in March, the DOE Contractor Awareness Programs Partnership sponsored "Women Sustaining the American Spirit," a program featuring a five-woman panel from the Oak Ridge area. Each discussed her respective career and answered questions from the audience.

Members of the panel were Olivia West (pictured at left), a UT-Battelle scientist; Teresa Toomey (center), an electrician at the SNS project; Toni Duvall (right), an entrepreneur; Gail Mattson, an engineer with Bechtel Jacobs Company; and Gwendolyn Jackson, a local veterinarian.

A bonus to the program was an exhibit of the artwork of 16 women who are board members and instructors at the Oak Ridge Art Center.



What's News

Reichert joins Manufacturing staff

Michelle Reichert has become the manager of Manufacturing Operational Compliance. This new position provides functional management of Manufacturing's programs for Management Assessment, Issues Management, Price-Anderson Amendments Act and Lessons Learned.

Reichert will manage matrixed resources from each Manufacturing organization to ensure these programs yield consistent, high-quality results. Reichert's previous assignment was as the program manager in Y-12 Modernization for planning the consolidation of depleted uranium/binary operations. Reichert's career at Y-12 has included positions leading the internal dosimetry program, managing the Radiobiology Laboratory Operations and serving as operations manager of the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory.

Video Services wins award

The video program "What We Do at Y-12," produced by the Video and Videoconference Services group in Communications Services, has won in two categories of the international "Telly" awards competition. In the twenty-third annual competition, there were more than 11,400 entries. The video won in the categories of "Corporate Image" and "Recruiting." The video was produced for Public Relations and Human Resources.

Earth Day is April 22

A few upcoming events for the Pollution Prevention program are listed below.

- The Complex will celebrate Earth Day April 22 on the cafeteria grounds from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. Games, a special cafeteria menu and prizes will be part of the fun.
- The Complex is sponsoring a "Clean Your Files Week" the week of April 29.

- The Y-12 Pollution Solution Awards will be distributed in an awards ceremony April 23.
- A ceremony also will be held April 23 to distribute funds from aluminum beverage can recycling to local charities.



Students invited to Transportation Week

The Southeastern Transportation Center will be holding its second annual high-school transportation week June 17–21. Transportation Week is a program designed to introduce rising juniors and seniors to careers in transportation.

Students will meet at the National Transportation Research Center each day at 9 a.m. to take part in transportation-related trips and team-building exercises until 4 p.m. In return for their time, participants will receive a \$300 scholarship that can be used at any institution of higher learning. Contact Bryan McDermott (974-4606, bmcdermo@utk.edu) for more information.

Science fair judges sought

The twenty-second annual Elementary Regional Science Fair, sponsored by Tate's School of Discovery, is seeking volunteer judges. Some 200 children, grades 3-5, are expected to compete in this year's fair April 22 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Knoxville Christian Center, 818 N. Cedar Bluff Road. Fair organizers are looking for science-savvy judges who are interested in encouraging kids. Public viewing of entries will be the following day. If you'd like to help judge, contact Olga Eisenhower, 671-4919, e-mail momje4@aol.com.

STAR Vending brings on the food

Ray Green, left, and Eddie Smith of STAR Vending install the first of the new vending machines at Y-12 in guard headquarters in Building 9710-3. The new contract for food vending began in April. The Knoxville-based company is run by Gordon and DiAnna Turnage.

Kathy Davis will be the liaison between the Y-12 Cafeteria and STAR Vending. She will be overseeing all vending operations, which will include a full-service mobile vending truck that will supply breakfast and lunch at various locations throughout the plant. The specific route schedule and menu are being developed, and Davis said that they will be revised and updated frequently to ensure that appropriate coverage is provided to the plant population.

Suggestions, comments and requests for service can be sent to Davis at 9kd@y12.doe.gov or 574-1595.

Davis is also the supervisor for the canteens in Buildings 9201-2 and 9113. She said a new canteen will soon be opening in Building 9212.



Y-12 Employees' Society (YES) news

Trip to Historic Rugby set for April 27



Christ Church in Historic Rugby

YES has set up a trip to Historic Rugby for Saturday, April 27. All Y-12 employees, friends, retirees and their families are cordially invited.

Come spend the day in this quaint Victorian village where you travel just 60 miles, but you will go back in time almost 120 years.

Your visit to Historic Rugby will include a tour of the 1880s Hughes Library, the Founders Home and the Visitors Centre, once the schoolhouse for this English colony set squarely in a remote corner of the Cumberland

Plateau. You will visit beautiful Christ Church, still an active

house of worship after more than a century of use. You will enjoy a delicious meal at the Harrow Road Café, noted for serving fine food of both standard and English specialties.

You can shop at the Rugby Commissary, much like the one where the English settlers purchased their goods. You can hike a mile roundtrip to the Gentlemen's Swimming Hole on the Clear Fork River, or you can take the paved walking path through the middle of the village. You can walk the carriage paths that lead to beautiful private homes of the Victorian era—homes such as the Lindens, Ingleside or Adena Cottage.

The cost of the trip is only \$25, which includes your meal. A comfortable tour bus leaves the parking lot at the American Museum of Science and Energy at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, April 27.

For more information or to secure your spot on the tour bus, contact Alice Brandon at 576-2963.

Day at Dollywood set for May 4



Y-12 employees, retirees and their families are invited to Dollywood for a day of world-class entertainment, master-craft showcases, family rides, delicious food and great shopping Saturday, May 4. With the purchase of a one-day ticket, guests will receive admission to the park as well as a picnic lunch, a Super Saver Book, a renew/purchase season ticket price-break sheet and bonus coupons. In addition, the first 50 YES members purchasing Dollywood tickets also will receive a Dollywood Dollar.

Tickets may be obtained at the following prices by contacting Malinda Fellers at 576-3829. The prices represent a cost savings of \$5 to \$8 per ticket.

	Members	Non-members
Adults	\$33.00	\$35.00
Children 11 and under	\$22.00	\$24.00
Meal ticket with existing Dollywood Season Pass:		
Adults	\$9.00	\$10.00
Children 11 and under	\$4.00	\$5.00

Everyone is joining YES—have you?

Brigadier General Ron Haeckel, right, signs up for the Y-12 Employee Society during his visit to the Complex in March.

While YES is only a few months old, more than 500 Y-12 employees and retirees have signed up to receive the numerous area discounts and to participate in trips and other activities. YES has organized a softball league this year. Those interested in participating can contact Peter McKenzie at 576-3624. Other sports leagues are planned for later in the year.

YES President Ala Montgomery, above at center, offers a Y-12 merchandise catalog to NNSA Oak Ridge Manager Bill Brumley.

Some of the merchandise items include hats, jackets, pens and golf balls. To request a catalog or to get more information, contact Montgomery at 574-0493.



Do you know the YES officers?

Ala Montgomery, president	574-0493
Steve Jones, vice president	574-0547
Kathie Fink, secretary	574-0020
Victoria Steward, treasurer	576-6769
Alice Brandon, publicity	576-2963
Pete McKenzie, sports	574-3624
Garry Whitley, discounts	574-0528
Sylvia Davis, social and travel	576-7296
Peggy Campbell, entertainment	574-1719
Brenda Stevens, ticket sales	574-3544
Diann Johnson, membership	574-0101

May, June retirement seminars planned

Employees may register for the following upcoming retirement seminars:

- Tuesday, May 21, 6 p.m.;
- Wednesday, May 22, 8 a.m.;
- Tuesday, June 25, 6 p.m.; and
- Wednesday, June 26, 8 a.m.

Seminars are held at 104 Union Valley Road in the Lobby Conference Room.

Topics covered include the savings plan, pension plan, group life insurance, medical plan and dental plan.

If you are thinking about retiring soon and are interested in attending a seminar, call the OneCall Service Center at 574-1500 or sign up through the Benefits Delivery Web page. Spouses are welcome and encouraged to attend with you.

Household hazardous waste collection to be held in Oak Ridge April 27

Anderson County Solid Waste Management, along with the State of Tennessee's Department of Environment and Conservation, will be holding its Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event Saturday, April 27, at the Emory Valley Center (Old Daniel Arthur School), 728 Emory Valley Road in Oak Ridge. The collection event will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

You can bring the following items: household cleaners, home improvement or maintenance supplies, paint, lawn and garden supplies, automotive fluids (not oil) and miscellaneous supplies, batteries, photo processing chemicals, pool chemicals, medicines and drugs, aerosols, compressed gas and chemistry sets.

Do not bring medical waste, explosives or ammunition, radioactive materials, automotive oil, lead acid batteries, commercial and agribusiness wastes.

If you have any questions, call Frank Sewell at 463-6845.

Obituary

Pamela A. Eberhardt

Pamela Eberhardt, 47, of Kingston, died March 24.

Eberhardt was a machinist in the Manufacturing organization. She had more than 25 years of service with the company.

An award-winning artist and photographer, Eberhardt formerly was employed in the Y-12 Photography group in the Communications Services organization.

She is survived by her husband, Steve Eberhardt, who is a machinist in the Enriched Uranium Operations organization; her mother, Blanche Bell of Oak Ridge; two brothers, Jerry and Greg Bell; three sisters, Brenda Darby, Trish Parrish and Sandy Levine; step-son, Aaron Eberhardt; and step-daughter, Anna Lee Eberhardt.



Team members and planners needed for this year's Relay for Life event

Cancer has touched nearly everyone in one way or another, and a great way to get involved in helping to find a cure is to participate in the Relay for Life event held in Oak Ridge every year.

The event will begin Friday, May 10, and run through noon May 11. While the relay is going on, a community party atmosphere is created by team members and others who are camping out and enjoying entertainment, food, games and camaraderie.

The BWXT Y-12 Relay for Life team currently is being formed. Y-12ers are needed to help plan this year's theme and coordinate details. A 15-member team is needed, so if you'd like to help out, contact Bob Hawthorne (zed@y12.doe.gov or 576-4754) or Cathy Hickey, American Cancer Society Oak Ridge chapter board member (o5i@y12.doe.gov or 241-9528).

There are only five weeks until the event, so don't hesitate to join the team!

Service Anniversaries

35 years

James H. Burkhardt Jr., Quality Assurance; Roger H. Cox, Facilities, Infrastructure and Services

30 years

James E. Prigmore Jr. and Dianna B. West, Manufacturing; Sharon C. Bowman, Ronald C. Black and Everette R. Strange, Facilities, Infrastructure and Services; William G. Smith, Engineering and Technology

25 years

Ronald Arnold, John L. Mincy and Glen R. Powers, Quality Assurance; Terry W. Carroll, Program Planning and Integration; Hoyt A. Eason, Oak Ridge Center for Manufacturing and Materials Sciences; Virgil F. Hackworth, Terry V. Carpenter, Sarah J. Meridieth, John W. Ward, Jeffrey R. Williams, Garry W. Kerley, Debra A. Morgan, Danny L. Roberts and Clarice B. Bowman, Manufacturing; Libbie K. Landers, Legal; Janet L. Sexton, Human Resources; Willie G. Bunch, William H. Cumbie, Tommy L. Rhea, Thomas M. Smith, Thomas D. Williams, Sue Rigopoulos, Stevie D. Seiber, Stanley L. Bunch, Patricia S. Carroll, Michael V. Hensley, Larry D. Thomas, Juanita L. Richards, John D. May Jr., Jacqueline R. Latham, Glen W. McCrary, Claude F. Hall Jr., Charles V. Whitson Jr. and Carl M. Sellers Jr., Facilities, Infrastructure and Services; Linda B. Rodems, Environment, Safety and Health; Steve E. Shipley, Michael L. Burchfield, Katherine P. Kendall, Jennings E. Cline and Jannis C. Cline, Engineering and Technology; Jimmie E. Travis, Business Systems

20 years

Sandra K. Poling, Quality Assurance; George L. Potprocky, Ernest H. Hutson Jr. and Donnie L. Lynn, Facilities, Infrastructure and Services

Y-12 engineer lends a hand at NYC relief center; comes home with valuable lesson

Four-and-a-half months after the attack on the World Trade Center, Lisa Thompson, an engineer in the Technology Development Division at the Y-12 National Security Complex, unexpectedly found herself on an airplane and a week-

long pilgrimage to lend a helping hand.

As a result of a series of serendipitous events, the Morristown native was able to volunteer at the Salvation Army canteen, one of New York's four relief centers, and to serve the city

she had loved since her first visit during her junior year at the University of Tennessee. Returning home at the end of January, she brought with her an unexpected gift from the experience: a renewed appreciation for life and the invincibility of the human spirit.

One of eight volunteers from the Ball Camp Baptist Church, Lisa was a team leader for the group assigned to serve daily meals to more than 100 site workers from the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other organizations helping people find new jobs, pay bills, and cope with a myriad of burdens. "We thought we'd be constantly working," she says. When they learned they'd have 2-hour breaks between meal shifts, they initially felt disappointed that they

weren't "doing more." But they soon discovered that simply being there for people—offering a smile, some friendly banter, or a sympathetic ear to site workers and clients alike—was as important as filling their plates.

As she worked at the Worth Street Center, a few blocks from Ground Zero, Lisa was struck by the variety of clients seeking assistance. Their economic backgrounds ranged from "the very poor to very affluent," and translators for everything from Spanish to Chinese were on hand. The volunteers also hailed from everywhere, and some had worked on site for months. Murielle, for instance, had traveled from France to vacation in New York last October and was so moved by the relief efforts, she immediately became a volunteer. By late January, she was on her second visit to Manhattan, devoting a few more weeks of time. Concurrently, a Georgia disaster relief team had arrived at Ground Zero to relieve the disaster relief crew from Tennessee.

As the week unfolded, Lisa met and spoke with many people. When a client with a broken foot came in, she told how she'd escaped from an 85th floor and been trapped in the rubble for 30 minutes. "She'd lost 75 of her coworkers." Despite her trauma, she somehow managed to muster good spirits, says Lisa, who quietly wondered how she'd react if she'd suffered through the same ordeal. Another woman, who had traveled from Michigan as a volunteer social worker for the Red Cross, was often on the run, summoned by aid workers with emotionally distraught clients. Later "she would talk with us," Lisa remembers. "We felt like we were *her* outlet."

As time unfolded, both human nature and the human spirit seemed at work. The enormity of the event and its staggering aftermath could not help causing nerves to fray and tempers to flare. The leader of the Ball Camp Baptist volunteer expedition and Lisa's longtime friend, Alpha Patrick, headed a team assigned to the Ground Zero canteen, where the fire fighters and police were fed. Recent angry exchanges between the two groups led them to eat on opposite sides of the room, Lisa was told. Even some of the relief agencies displayed territorial behaviors and occasional friction, she reports. One volunteer, a native New Yorker bitter about losing her job just before the attack and thereby being ineligible for aid, told Lisa the city was unified for a few short weeks after the attack, "then things went back to normal."

Instead of being disillusioned, Lisa took some comfort in that. Part of the response to September 11 is people "seeking normalcy," she suggests. "They don't want to have to keep thinking about it, coping with it."

But the intense physical and emotional demands of the work surrounded them. While Alpha's team covered the midnight shift at Ground Zero, they witnessed a solemn ritual when the intact bodies of firefighters were unearthed. The site workers called other fire fighters to the scene, the bodies were wrapped in flags, and the deceased were carried off the site in a processional.

This is the first installment of a two-part story. Check the April 25 issue for the conclusion of Thompson's experiences as a volunteer in a New York City relief center.



Thompson

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Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8245

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U. S. Postage

PAID

Permit #36
Powell, TN

Volume 2, No. 10

April 4, 2002

Published by Communications Partners
(Public Relations and Communications Services)
Ellen Boatner
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Matthew Guilford
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